# Sample Proficiency Standard

The content included in this Sample Proficiency Standard section was drawn from the performance tasks developed as part of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's work with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. We gratefully appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of Wisconsin educators who participated in the performance assessment development project.

### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

# B. Writing

The performance tasks developed as part of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's work with the Wisconsin Center for Education Research provided the basis for the sample proficiency standard for writing below. We gratefully appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of Wisconsin educators who participated in the performance assessment development project.

### CONTENT STANDARD

Students in Wisconsin will write clearly and effectively to share information and knowledge, to influence and persuade, to create and entertain.

### PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Create or produce writing to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes
- Plan, revise, edit, and publish clear and effective writing
- Understand the function of various forms, structures, and punctuation marks of standard American English and use them appropriately in written communications

### SAMPLE TASK

We have spent time discussing the concept of heroism. In small groups, we have examined different views and have considered certain individuals or groups of persons as possible heroes. In addition, we have read several passages describing heroic acts, persons, or situations.

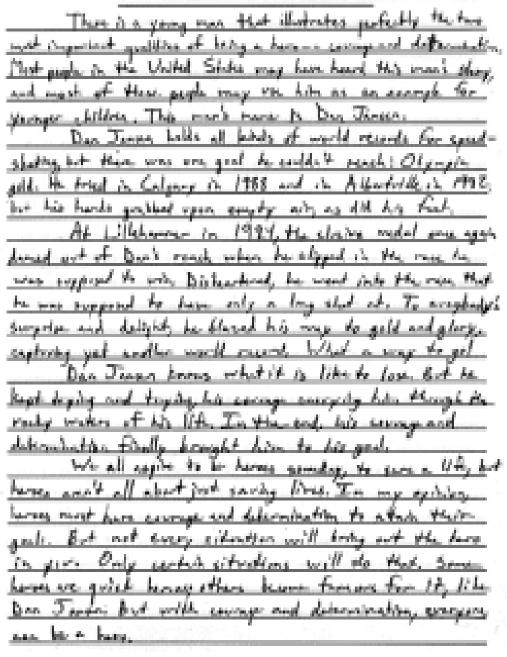
You now have two class periods to write about heroism. You may choose from several different forms of writing, such as poem, narrative, character sketch, news report, or essay. Choose the one that will best allow you to express your understanding of heroism. This paper will not be scored according to what you believe or your choice of hero but on how well you write to deliver your message. Think of the members of your class as the audience. Your choice of form and content should be appropriate for the purpose of the writing, to express your understanding of heroism.

# SAMPLES OF STUDENT WORK EXPLANATION OF RATINGS OF STUDENT WORK

### Advanced

This writer has a clear sense of delivery of the message in response to the assignment. Although the paper is relatively short, it is well developed and clearly focused. The writer's use of expressions, such as "...his hands grabbed upon empty air, as did his feet," "blazed his way to glory," "some heroes are quiet heroes; others become famous for it" illustrates a grasp of sophisticated stylistic devices. Variation in sentence structure, use of specific example, and mastery of language conventions combine to demonstrate advanced ability to communicate in writing.

### Final Draft



### **Proficient**

The writer captures the reader's attention in the first paragraph and holds the interest throughout the piece. A clear sense of beginning, middle, and end is evident in the organization, and appropriate paragraphing is used. Sentence variety and use of dialogue add to the effectiveness of this piece. The vocabulary includes effective words such as "jolted," "murmered," and "eventually." The few punctuation and usage errors do not detract from the writing. While this writing is clearly proficient, it is not advanced. Greater detail, some word choice changes, and some general revisions could increase the overall delivery of this writing.

Final Draft Someone

### Basic

The writer has a sense of order with an introduction and logical progression of story. Some transitions are used and words such as "collide," "elderly," and "dispatch" add to the overall effect of the writing. Use of dialogue is attempted near the end. While the writer demonstrates understanding of composition, the lack of paragraphing, the errors in punctuation and usage, and the general difficulty in readability detract from the delivery of the message. Improvement in these areas is needed to assist this piece in its overall effectiveness.

Final Draft

### Minimal

Although the writer addresses the writing assignment and topic, the paper lacks development of thought and details. The language is simplistic and does not capture the interest of the reader. Sentences are simple and without some needed punctuation. Overall, this writing does not deliver its message successfully.

# Final Draft